

THEME

The theme is the moral or message of the story.

How do I find the theme?

Think about...

- What lesson did the author want you to learn?
- Was there a message the author was trying to share?
- How did the character change in the story?
- The theme is not what happened in the story.
- The author does not say "the theme is..." - the theme is hidden inside the book!

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TOPIC

The topic is the subject of the story.
It's like a hashtag.

Some topics are:

- bravery
- friendship
- perseverance
- kindness
- honesty
- hard work
- hope
- family
- acceptance
- overcoming obstacles
- cooperation
- making a difference

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The theme is the moral or message of the story.
It is what you learned.

We can use the topic to help us write the theme.

Maybe you chose acceptance as the topic.

The theme might be:
It is ok to be different.

If fairness is the topic, the theme could be:

Stand up for what is right.

If honesty is the topic, the theme could be:

Always tell the truth.

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Some themes are:

- It's ok to be different.
- Working together can help you achieve your goals.
 - Appearances can be deceiving.
- Sometimes the fast way isn't the best way.
 - Appreciate the things you have.
- Stand up for who and what you believe in.
 - Family is important.
 - Believe in yourself.
- Excluding others can make them sad.
 - Have respect for nature.
- It takes courage to do the right thing.
- Treat others the way you want to be treated.

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THEME vs. MAIN IDEA

The theme and the main idea are different.

The theme is the moral or message of the story.

The main idea is what the story is mostly about.

Find the theme!

Read the main idea. What do you think the theme of the story is?

The main idea is...	The theme might be...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The class worked together to help clean the library.• Cicily spent hours working on her project for school and her class was impressed with her work.• I was nervous about my piano recital but my teacher said I did very well.• I didn't think I would ever learn how to ice skate but I kept trying and am now a great skater.• Lucas accidentally broke a mirror in his house. When his mom asked what happened, he told the truth.	

Searching for the theme.

What books share each theme?
